

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:: ) Group Art Unit: 1635  
                        )  
                        LUZ MONTESCLAROS et al. ) Examiner: RICHARD SCHNIZER, Ph.D.  
                        )  
Serial No.: 10/618,493 ) Confirmation Number: 5407  
                        )  
Filed: July 11, 2003 )  
                        )  
For: **METHODS AND KITS FOR** )  
     **OBTAINING NUCLEIC ACID** )  
     **FROM BIOLOGICAL** )  
     **SAMPLES** )  
                        )  
                        )  
                        )  
                        )

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants now respond to the Office Action mailed September 22, 2005, (the "Office Action"). The period to respond has been extended three months by the Petition for Three Month Extension of Time filed herewith. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of all outstanding objections and rejections.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the Listing of Claims section that begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Response** is reflected in the Remarks section that begins on page 13 of this paper.